

the Copper Hill Connection

June 2014

We plan to publish issues quarterly. Input/comments from you for future issues are most welcome.

Pastor's Postings

by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones

As we approach our one-year anniversary here at Copper Hill UMC, we're excited to see what God is doing. We feel very welcomed and blessed to be a part of the ministry of this church.

WE REALLY DO NEED EACH OTHER

I love the words of this chorus: "We really do need each other like the earth needs the falling rain; we really do need one another, 'cause if I didn't have you, it just wouldn't be the same. We're all walking together on a pilgrimage of our own; we finally found which way to go, but we can't make it on our own." How true this is! As the Bible says, "None of us lives to himself alone" (Rom. 14:7).

While we give lip service to this interdependence, we easily default to spending time on ourselves. We talk about having friends over, but we don't. We think about visiting that aging parent, or neighbor but we're too busy. We'd like to help with a community project or join a church class, but we have our own projects.

Eventually, we reap what we've sown. We find that the seeds of selfishness have born fruit in loneliness, social isolation and the resulting emotional vulnerability. We end up struggling alone. It's part of the devil's plan for destroying human joy and potential.

In contrast, Jesus came to send us out of ourselves in love and service. And since Christians are the continuing incarnation of Jesus' presence in the world, it becomes everyone's business to promote togetherness, to initiate reconciliation, and to learn cooperation. We must encourage fellowship, marital and family bonding, and community cooperation. In working together we have to be flexible and learn to give and take; that's just part of the curriculum.

As we participate on a work team, sports team, choir, or band, another great lesson learned is that we can do things together that are not possible alone. As we do, we find our own joy and fulfillment increased as well. So I say "hurrah" to joint projects, team efforts, and cooperative ventures. They are teaching us something that we find far too easy to forget, "We really do need each other."

"In all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will direct your paths" (Prov. 3:6).

Coming Events

Family Picnic, Sunday, July 13, 2 PM. at Sunrise Park, West Suffield. We have the Pavilion reserved for the entire afternoon and evening, rain or shine. There will be swimming and games for all ages. We will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and rolls. Please bring a salad and a dessert to share for the meal at 5 PM. Afterwards, Pastor Kelvin will lead us in a Vesper Service at the outdoor chapel (or, in case of rain, in the pavilion). Come join us!



Take-Out Chicken Dinner, Sat., Aug. 16, 5 PM. Menu: baked chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, bean salad, roll and butter, beverage, peach or blueberry pie. All meals will be served as take-out, but you may enjoy eating at the "picnic tables" in the church Fellowship Hall.

"Skeeter Walk, Sunday, Aug. 17, 2 PM. on the rails-to-trails just west of the church. We'll be raising money for the Methodist Church's "Imagine No Malaria" campaign. Last year we raised more than \$900; let's see if we can exceed that! In Africa, a child dies of malaria every 60 seconds. With insecticide-treated nets (only \$10 each), they can be safe from mosquitoes. Malaria is very treatable if caught early (only a single dollar per treatment). Please pick up a pledge sheet to sign up sponsors.

Kids' Summer Send-off, Sunday, Aug. 24, 11 AM at the church. An end-of-summer party for children with lawn games, lunch, stories, and crafts. Come and bring your friends!

Ministries of Our Church



St. Pauly's Clothing Collection

At the back of our parking lot, we have a collection box to support this non-profit group. Clothing and shoes, as well as sheets and blankets are accepted. It is truly amazing how many items have been donated thus far! This is the place to bring your clothing that is still in good condition but no longer fits (either your size or your needs).

St. Pauly reimburses us for every pound of clothing collected. Our church chooses to donate all proceeds to the Food Pantries we support.

Dominican Republic Mission

Dakota Doney is participating in a mission trip to the Dominican Republic at the end of July. The group will visit several villages and schools.

Both our church and women's group, as well as individuals, have helped to support Dakota financially. (The individual cost for each participant is \$1,000.)

Additionally, we are collecting school supplies and children's vitamins to be sent with the group; there is a collection tub in the Fellowship Hall for your donations. Suggested items are: composition books, pens, pencils, markers, glue, scissors, backpacks, shoes, and vitamins. These items are due at our church by July 6, in order for them to be packed up in time.

Food Pantry

We continue to support the Food Pantries for the three towns we serve: East Granby, Granby, and Suf-field. We have a box in which we collect non-perishable food items as well as paper goods, and health and cleaning supplies. When the box is full, we take it to the town that is next on the "rotation schedule."

It is easy enough to pick up a couple of items for the box each week with your regular grocery shopping. Please remember those less fortunate.

"Goings On" at Our Church

200th Anniversary Celebration

In case you didn't know, our church will reach the **200th Anniversary** of its founding in the year 2016. What an amazing achievement!

We have formed a 200th Anniversary Committee, and are in the beginning stages of planning for a year-long celebration of events. For now, we are meeting at 7 PM at the church on the third Tuesday of the "odd-numbered" months (July, September, etc.). We would welcome anyone who would like to join in this effort.

Activities you may have missed

On February 22 we had a great "*Winter Picnic*" at the church with typical "picnic food." We played games and generally had an all-around fun time. What a great inter-generational activity!

On March 15 we held our annual *Corned Beef Dinner*, with its typical menu of corned beef and cabbage. Net proceeds for the dinner were \$868, which went to the church's general fund.

On May 3 the UMW held our *Spring Tag & Bake Sale*. It seemed we had more items than we had ever had! This sale was a resounding success, bringing in more than we ever have!

Upgrades to our "Signage"

In the near future, you will see a new symbol added to the front of our church. The "**Methodist Cross & Flame**" has been ordered and should be delivered soon. Then our own people will do the actual installation. Our intent is that this will give an additional sign to the community that we are an active church. (Several people have commented that they did not know that we are active!)



New Banners

We have formed a committee to make new banners for the Fellowship Hall. The current banners, made during the early 1980s, are showing signs of their age. They were originally hung in the sanctuary and later moved to the hall. The new banners will be made of more up-to-date materials and will give a "lift" to the look of the hall.

Continuing Our Ministry

Church Growth



Wonderful news! On Palm Sunday, we received seven new members into our congregation. These are the first new members we have received in three years!

While most of these people have been coming to church for a while and already support our church, it is a blessing to have them now as “official” members of our congregation. Two of the members received are new confirmands in the faith.

As you can see, our church is working to share God’s love in the community and beyond. God has allowed Copper Hill to stay open for nearly 200 years! If you would like to see this continue and be a part God’s work here, no doubt you’ll want to be informed of ways in which you can help.

Budget Info

Now that Copper Hill UMC has been separate from West Granby for about a year, it is important for everyone to be aware of our church’s financial status. As a church, we prefer to depend upon the informed, faithful, regular giving of God’s people rather than use pledge campaigns and repeated appeal letters.

The balance in our general fund, has been going down because our income is not keeping up with our expenses. Our income is currently running about \$1000 below the planned budgeted income. We fell below the targeted income for the week on sixteen of the first 21 weeks of this fiscal year. Income from fundraising dinners is added to the general fund, and fifth Sunday collections toward electricity expenses help as well. But these do not make up the shortfall. Because of the fact that we assumed additional parsonage expenses after the budget was written, our expenses were higher than expected. We are running about \$5400 behind our expenses in the general fund. Please know that we are continually looking for ways to grow our income as well as to reduce expenses.

As most of you are aware, we received a sizable bequest from Kenneth Seymour last year, for which we are most thankful. While some may say that we have all the money we need since receiving that gift, we do not wish to use those special funds for our general operating expenses of the church. We feel they should be used for special projects which we could not otherwise afford to do, as well as being invested for the future needs of the church.

Trustees Worksheet

One of the trustees’ responsibilities is the care of the property. As you can imagine, with the age of our church facilities, this is a constant challenge. Currently, our trustees are working on several projects. Thank you to Trustee Chairperson Harrison Griffin and all the trustees and volunteers who are working hard on these tasks.

1. The most immediate project concerns the **ceiling in the sanctuary**. Several ceiling joists in one spot above the suspended ceiling were discovered to have separated from the cross beam, allowing the drop ceiling to sag. A contractor has been employed to repair/re-attach the joists. Then an engineer will inspect to ensure that all is safe and secure. We are worshipping in the Fellowship Hall until this repair is complete.

2. Our goal is to be able to worship in our **sanctuary year-round**. Our trustees are working to re-insulate the sanctuary walls and attic and repair or replace electric heat units that have not been working.

3. We have a goal to improve our **north entrance** area. New doors are being ordered. After they are installed, we can also replace the carpet.

4. The trustees have been working on **energy audits** of our buildings.

Copper Hill United Methodist Church
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Welcome to the first issue of **the Copper Hill Connection**, the newsletter for members and friends of Copper Hill United Methodist Church, 27 Copper Hill Road, East Granby, CT 06026.

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If you would prefer to receive your copy by email, please let us know.

Regular Meetings/Activities

Coffee Hour: normally on the second Sunday of each month immediately following morning services. This is a wonderful time of fellowship and refreshments, and a chance for all to 'catch up' on what everyone is doing outside of church. On July 6, we'll celebrate the *anniversary of our pastor's arrival*.

Communion: usually on the first Sunday of each month

Church Council: on the first Tuesday of each month, 7 PM at the church, open to all who are interested in knowing what is going on in the church and in deciding the actions we take for our church

United Methodist Women (UMW): will take July and August off, but will start up again in the fall. We meet at the church at 7 PM on the second Tuesday of the month.

"Fifth Sunday" Collection: *With electricity costs continually on the rise*, special collections (in the four months of the year when we have five Sundays) help with those expenses.

Find us on the web: www.CopperHillChurch.us

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